

The Labour Organiser

No. 191

MAY, 1937

Price 4d.

LABOUR'S ROLL OF HONOUR

OFFICIAL LIST of D.L.P'S with OVER 2,000 MEMBERS

The following is a list compiled from official sources of Constituency Parties which, after necessary adjustments have been made, showed a nett membership of over 2,000 at the end of 1936 :

SINGLE-MEMBERED CONSTITUENCIES

Romford ..	7,211	East Ham—North	2,637
Deptford ..	3,679	Harrow ..	2,573
East Ham—South	3,259	Carlisle ..	2,289
Whitechapel ..	3,247	West Bermondsey	2,270
Greenwich ..	3,172	Reading ..	2,250
Ilford ..	3,172	Caerphilly ..	2,185
Newport (Mon.)	3,160	Linlithgow ..	2,121
Mitcham ..	3,124	Gorton ..	2,112
E. Lewisham ..	3,209	Burnley ..	2,100
Nuneaton ..	3,007	Twickenham ..	2,082
Nelson and Colne	3,000	Llandaff and Barry	2,008
Rotherhithe ..	2,757	Rochdale ..	2,000
Altrincham ..	2,710		

TWO-MEMBERED CONSTITUENCIES

Woolwich—		Southampton ..	2,825
E. and W. Divisions	4,300	Sunderland ..	2,624
Oldham ..	3,730	Dundee ..	2,424
Norwich ..	3,283		

List of Candidatures Endorsed by N.E.C., 5th May, 1937

- BUCKS.: Aylesbury.—Mr. R. Groves,
3, Gateside Rd., London, S.W.17.
CAMBS.: Cambridgeshire.—Mr. A. E.
Stubbs, 5, Arbury Rd., Cambridge.
Ches.: Northwich.—Mr. James Gor-
man, 9, Bank Rd., Hr. Crumpsall,
Manchester, 8.
DERBYS.: West.—Mr. C. F. White,
The Gorse, Brookhill Lane, Pinxton,
Notts.
DURHAM: Darlington.—Mr. James
Wilson, 61, Dunholme Rd., New-
castle-on-Tyne.
ESSEX: Colchester.—Mr. Tony Green-
wood, The Old Ship Cottage, East
Mersea, Essex.
GLOS.: Bristol Central.—Mr. Stanley
Awbery, Dockers' Hall, Sydenham
Street, Barry Docks, Glam.
ISLE OF WIGHT.—Dr. R. A. Lyster,
33, Methuen Rd., Bournemouth.
KENT: Bromley.—Mr. Percy Arnold,
54, Denman Drive, N.W.11;
Chatham.—Mr. T. W. Agar, 90,
Sarsfeld Rd., S.W.12.
LANCS.: Barrow.—Mr. R. McKinnon
Wood, The Barn, Upper Vann Lane,
Godalming, Surrey;
Liverpool, Edgehill.—Mr. H. Hayes,
44, Golders Hill Rd., Hendon,
N.W.4.
LINCS.: Grimsby.—Mr. Henry Brinton,
11, Graham St., Eaton Sq., London,
S.W.1.
SURREY: Kingston.—Mr. G. H. Loman,
417, Ewell Rd., Surbiton, Surrey.
Reigate.—Mr. C. J. Garnsworthy,
27, Beechen Lane, Kingswood, Tad-
worth, Surrey.
WILTS.: Westbury.—Mr. Lyall Wilkes,
Balliol College, Oxford.
WORCESTER: Dudley.—Mr. Leon
Freedman, 8, Heath Drive, Hamp-
stead, N.W.3;
Worcester.—Mr. James Ferguson,
80, Aggboro' Crescent, Kidder-
minster.
MERIONETH.—Mr. T. W. Jones, Bro.
Hedd, Clarke St., Ponciau, Nr.
Wrexham.
RENFREWS.: Paisley.—Mr. Oliver
Baldwin, Little Stoke House, North
Stoke, Oxford.

Co-operative Candidature Approved

- GLOS.: Bristol North.—Mr. William
Coldrick, 52, The Crescent, Sea
Mills, Bristol, 9.

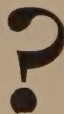
Deletions

- DEVON: Plymouth, Drake.—Mr. R. J.
Watson.
KENT: Maidstone.—Dr. J. W. Mac-
Alpine.
LEIC.: Harborough. — Mr. R.
McKinnon Wood.

Additional Candidatures Endorsed by N.E.C., 24th March, 1937

- BUCKS.: Buckingham.—Lt.-Col. J. V.
Delahaye, 37, Bedford Sq., London,
W.C.
CORNWALL: Bodmin.—Mr. R. H.
Baker, Millbrook, Braunton, Devon.
LONDON: Bethnal Green South-West.—
Mr. Percy Holman, 9, Berkeley
Place, S.W.19 (Co-op.).
WARWICK: Birmingham, Deritend.—
Mr. Fred Longden, 58, Ansell Rd.,
Erdington, Birmingham (Co-op.).
FIFESHIRE: East.—Mr. John Davis,
44, Meiklewood Rd., Glasgow, S.W.1.

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JACK CUTTER on—

REGISTRATION WRINKLES

Throughout the land in this merry month of May a little army of men are daily going forth from the Registration Departments of the Council Offices, each armed with a one-sided copy of the 1936 Register and a fountain pen.

Where they come from; where they go when their work is completed, and what they do in the close season are nice points of speculation which need not concern us here. My interest in them is confined to the fact that, if their work is done properly, the once blank pages are filled with a mass of detailed information which would be of considerable value to the local Agent if he could get at it.

Before our hibernating canvasser begins his job his chief has conferred with the Registrar of Deaths and deleted from the old list all those who, since the last registration, have ceased to have an interest in things temporal and electoral. Possibly his chief has also put in some spade work with the Housing or Estates Department and recorded a fair percentage of the removals. But our canvasser is entrusted with the job of ignoring Form A and bringing back to the Town Hall a neat and correct record of who is now who.

On his facing page are the new addresses of all traceable removals, men and women who will still have a vote in their old ward, parish, division, or constituency until the 15th of next October, and who, if a by-election occurs before that date, constitute a major problem for the Agent concerned.

It seems that more and more people move every year these days. I came across a constituency last month with a removals list which was ten per cent. of the total electorate—4,000 out of 40,000. And this is by no means an unusual percentage. It is obvious that proper attention to removals like that could make all the difference between victory and defeat should a by-election come along within the next five months.

Two cases in point occur to me. In the Wakefield by-election practically every removal was traced and all can-

vassable ones canvassed. Over a thousand of these proved to be Labour votes, and the number brought in to vote for Arthur Greenwood was twice as many as his majority. In the Derby by-election the number of Labour removals traced and polled almost precisely equalled Noel-Baker's majority.

Therefore it is good news that the Home Office has instructed all Registration Departments to give the fullest co-operation to Party Agents in the tracing of removals should a by-election take place on a dying Register.

I take it that this means that the notes of the canvasser are now open to our inspection and I see no reason why we should not go and have a look at them, by-election or no by-election. There is certain to be a gold-mine of information apart from removals which will enable us to forestall the publication of List A in July and give us an opportunity to cultivate new contacts before the main registration rush sets in.

These notes have induced me to write a second stanza on a closely allied theme—your relations with your Registration Officer. Needless to say, the wise Agent cultivates the friendship and goodwill of his R.O. with all the force of his personality, worming his way into his esteem and gradually



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training him so that he will eat out of your hand.

Avoid as you would a plague the secret storing up of claims during July and the triumphant production of a hefty batch at the eleventh hour on August 6th. Believe me, the satisfaction of being the big noise at a long-drawn-out Revision Court is not worth the resentment created in the bosom of your R.O. Take him your discoveries quietly as you trace them and talk to him like a brother. Assess your cases with frankness and honesty, saying: "Here is a batch which I am sure you will find on investigation are perfectly valid and which you will no doubt include without reference to Revision Court; but here are one or two which you might think are border-line cases. Look into them and let me have your opinion. If we still agree to differ they can go before the Court."

The R.O. will soon learn to respect your judgment and will appreciate the fact that you have no intention of "pulling one over him."

I have heard Agents proudly quoting their three-figure claim list, as if to say: "I'm one of the smart ones. There are no flies on me." But I think the smarter Agent is the one who makes a friend of his R.O. It is a whole lot easier to get claims through before a Revision Court and certainly much easier to secure better results if, when you walk into the R.O.'s office, he is glad to see you and the atmosphere is one of friendly co-operation.

Practically every Agent who has been on the job any length of time knows these things and acts accordingly. The tip, however, might be of some use to Divisional or Registration Secretaries in those divisions where as yet no Agent is employed.

BLOCKS: What a Party Secretary Should Know

(Concluded)

Should the face of the photo not accept the ink or white, a light wipe with soapy water, very little, on a cloth, will remove the grease which is causing the difficulty. Be sure the face is dry before proceeding.

It is not good practice to take out circular, oval, or oblique portions of the figure.

Here are a few points worth knowing. The blockmaker charges for the area bounded by the widest part of the photo, and the deepest parts. An outstretched arm, for instance, may cost several shillings more, as the area underneath and over the arm is charged for.

It is always possible, however, to so arrange the photos, if more than one block at a time are made, that they fall close together. The blockmaker will do this, if he is asked. He, like the printer, does not go out of his way to save you money, but if he is intelligently directed, will do his best to oblige.

Get away from the stereotyped in photography and blocks, but not so far away as to be freakish. Added news value and added punch is given to illustration by unusual methods and

constant variety. Observation of the papers, practice, and learning from temporary mistakes will speedily bring successful production.

In the coming days illustration will play an even bigger part in Labour propaganda. Go into it and prepare now.

The Hendon Constituency Labour Party in its annual report says:—

"A supply of the 'Labour Organiser' is obtained monthly. It is a journal of very great value to those engaged in the work of organisation in the Party, and we would impress upon them the importance of reading it and profiting by its suggestions." (We hope to welcome this Party this year into the ranks of the 2,000 membership Parties. Last year's membership—1,838.)

Mr. Thomas C. Hendy, Divisional Secretary, Sutton Divisional Labour Party, writes:—

"I am pleased to say that I have taken the 'Labour Organiser' for the last two years, and have found it very useful. I certainly think every Ward official should take this book; it is always full of interesting and instructive matters. I have just been successful in getting an order from my Division, and our Literature Secretary will have sent this order on."

A LABOUR BEST SELLER

When a political Party publication becomes a "best seller," it obviously is something out of the ordinary.

"Labour's Immediate Programme" is something out of the ordinary—it sets out what a Labour Government with Power will do, and as the alternative to the present Government *will* be a Labour Government, the public are interested in knowing the changes in policy and action that will result from the change in Government.

If every one of the more than 8 million men and women who voted Labour at the last General Election read "Labour's Immediate Programme" pamphlet, which costs only one penny, we shall have that number of active missionaries for Socialism and Power.

Has your Party got supplies ?

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QUESTIONS ANSWERED HERE

Public Admission to Council Meetings

Question. There is a very interesting position here with regard to the local U.D. Council. They meet for their Council meetings in a very small room with limited accommodation, and there is only room for two Local Government electors to attend Council meetings in addition to the Council. The Council issues two tickets to the visitors and they are not entitled to tickets for more than one consecutive meeting. The Council has a larger hall they could use for their meetings if they so desire.

Will you please let me know if the Council can limit their accommodation in this way and refuse interested electors from attending the meetings, or is there any way pressure can be brought to bear in order to compel the Council to provide the necessary room for more interested electors to attend?

Answer. So far as we are aware (and we are open to correction) there is no right of admission to Council meetings vested in the public. However desirable the admission of the public may appear to be on general grounds and on specific grounds while certain discussions take place, it must be conceded that Council meetings do not fall into the same category as Courts of Law. Open Court is a wholesome provision for the trial of criminal or civil cases, but the administration of a city or county's affairs is more akin to the transactions of a Board of Management or Directors. Debates and decisions also relate to administrative rather than legislative matters.

The Local Authorities (Admission of the Press to Meetings) Act, 1908, is the only provision we are aware of which affects the matter. This Act confers a right upon representatives of the press to be admitted to meetings of every local authority, except when, in the opinion of the majority expressed

by resolution, the special nature of the business makes exclusion advisable in the public interest.

This Act (Section v.) says "that nothing in the Act shall be construed so as to prohibit a local authority from admitting the public from its meetings." It seems, therefore, that the discretion of a Council to admit the public is not in doubt.

Colour Combinations for Posters

Question. Dear Editor: I should like your advice upon the best colours to use for posters. There is a strong division of opinion on our Committee as to what is best. Some want red ink with white paper, others want black ink with white paper; another man wants yellow paper with black ink, while the ladies all seem to plank for a different colour apiece. We will take your verdict.

Answer. Years and years and years ago, the Editor ran his first election (and won handsomely). Taking a tip from the letter heading of the Labour Representation Committee, forerunner of the Labour Party, we adopted red and gold as our colours. And never before or since has a constituency been so well ornamented as that one was on that occasion. It pleased us immensely, but the Editor was less pleased to receive one morning a curt note from a local manufacturer "to come and remove that bilious-looking stuff from off his front gates"—an invitation which was not accepted.

Colour legibility and combination has been subjected to scientific test. Though there are exceptions due to natural and unnatural causes, the following table of combinations based on colour legibility will be found generally sound, but the source from which we gather this list has apparently

never heard of our outrageous red and gold!

Black on yellow.
Black on white.
Yellow on black.
White on black.
Blue on white.
White on blue.
White on green.
Green on white.
Red on white.
White on red.
Red on green.
Green on red.

What is Copyright ?

Question. I have a suggestion for the Editor about an article. I am the Editor of our local monthly rag, but more properly I am the Business Manager because all our "news" columns are made up of cuttings from other Magazines or the Labour Press Service, etc. I am sometimes afraid that we infringe other people's copyright. I seem to remember an article on this question once appearing in the "Labour Organiser." Could you not reprint?

Answer. An article on copyright appeared in the issue of the "Labour Organiser" for July 1934. We are afraid that it is too long to reprint, but the following is a very useful summary of the law of copyright which we extract from the "Ad-Man's Desk Book," a useful publication of "Business Publications Ltd.":—

The essence of an infringement of copyright lies in the copying of the form of expression and literary composition used by the copyright-owner or the reproduction of it with mere colourable alterations. Infringement of an author's copyright does not extend to his ideas or general style of production or to facts. The use of a *nom de plume* identified with a particular author is not a subject for copyright, although it may be restrained on the ground that such use is misleading. A compilation from common sources of information is not infringed by making a similar compilation, provided that it is not a copy but the result of individual labour.

In the following cases the copying of an author's work does not amount to infringement: (1) the fair use of any work for the purposes of private study, research, criticism, review or newspaper summary; (2) the publica-

tion in a collection mainly composed of non-copyright matter, *bona fide* intended for the use of schools and so described in the title and in any advertisements issued by the publisher of short passages from published literary work in which copyright exists and not themselves published for the use of schools, provided that the source of such passages is acknowledged and not more than two such passages by the same author be published by the same publisher within five years; (3) the publication in a newspaper of a report of a lecture delivered in public, unless a report is prohibited; (4) the reading or reciting in public by one person of any reasonable extract from any published work.

As to what is "reasonable" or "fair" use depends upon the circumstances of each case, but it may be taken as a general rule that extracts from an author's work should be quoted only in so far as is absolutely necessary to illustrate a given point, and that danger lies in extended quotations.

STILL THEY COME

More Testimonials regarding our Labour Monthlies

Sedgefield Div. L.P., 22/1/37:—

"Our Party are delighted with the paper, and I hope that the stock matter will always be as interesting as this issue."

Bolton L.P., 30/1/37:—

"... I also wish to thank you for the prompt delivery of the paper last month. It was received here on Saturday morning which was excellent for our requirements."

Colchester L.P., 6/2/37:—

"... I take this opportunity to tell you how much our people appreciated No. 1 of the paper. Its lay-out was excellent."

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THE LABOUR PARTY AT WORK

¶ We regret that the proposed issue of the "Citizen" under the new monthly leaflet scheme has been postponed owing, unfortunately, to a lack of sufficient response. We believe that a further proposal relating to this matter will shortly come before Local Parties.

¶ A great nation-wide campaign is being planned by the Head Office of the Party. Preliminary work will take up the time of the officers up till the Annual Conference at Bournemouth, and it is intended to launch a big general campaign in September.

¶ The Labour Party has published a series of new Peace posters which are carried out in attractive and striking designs, and in effective colours. Now, if ever, is the time to strike for Peace, and the three posters should be displayed for all they are worth by every local organisation. The size is double-crown.

¶ Illustrations of the new posters are to be obtained from Head Office by Secretaries who have not already received them. The price is : single copy 3d. ; 12 copies 2/3 ; 50 copies 8/- ; and so on. Our readers will remember that a coloured poster has also been published announcing "Labour's Immediate Programme" and is sent out with each order.

¶ A series of literature Conferences up and down the country has now been arranged by Mr. Maurice Hackett, Literature Circulation Officer. We hope that Parties will respond heartily to invitations to attend these Conferences, for they will learn a good deal not only regarding what literature is for sale, but on how to sell it ; how to display it ; how to order it, and

generally on how to make converts (and money) by selling literature.

¶ Has your Local Party yet appointed its Literature Secretary? A helpful little leaflet containing some suggestions and information for Literature Secretaries has been published by the Head Office. Readers of our paper who have not seen this well-got-up circular should write to the Head Office for a copy, enquiring also for order forms for literature. Three order forms are now available (1) a special sale or return order form ; (2) a standing order for new pamphlets ; (3) an ordinary order form for use when ordering pamphlets as required.

¶ Everybody who sells literature at all is aware that there is a class of person willing to pay an all-inclusive fee in order to be supplied with all Party publications, as published, without the bother of special ordering. Our readers who have not seen the Labour Party's prospectus for its annual subscription service should write for same. An all-inclusive service costs 25/- per year, but there are several other subscription rates according to whether the subscriber desires to have the Press Service, Weekly Notes for Speakers, etc., included or excluded.

Do ALL the officers
of your Party get
the "L.O."?



IF NOT - WHY NOT?

LABOUR PARTY DIRECTORY

(Recording all alterations since issue of last Annual Report.)

KEY TO INDEX LETTERS REPRESENTING LABOUR PARTY ORGANISING DISTRICTS.

A	North-Eastern District	F	South-Western District
B	North-Western District	G	Eastern District
C	Midlands District	H	Wales
D	Southern and Home Counties District	J	Scotland
E	London District	K	Universities

KEY TO NATURE OF CONSTITUENCY

(CD)	County Divisions	(DB)	Divisional Boroughs
(SB)	Single-membered Boroughs	(BD)	Borough Divisions
(DMB)	Double-membered Boroughs	(U)	Universities

CORRECTIONS RECORDED SINCE LAST L.P. ANNUAL REPORT

Constituency Numbers : 2, 5, 10, 12, 25, 31, 43, 48, 50, 51, 52, 57, 58, 62, 65, 67, 84, 85/88, 89, 91, 92, 103, 106, 107, 109, 110, 113, 115, 116, 117, 121, 125, 128, 131, 139, 143, 150, 153, 159, 160, 164, 174, 179, 181, 184, 202, 206, 207, 208, 211, 218, 220, 221, 226/27, 227, 228/31, 235, 239/41, 242, 243, 244, 246/9, 246, 258/9, 270/72, 275, 278, 279/80, 280, 283, 285, 290, 291, 299, 303, 313, 314, 317, 319, 332, 334, 337, 338, 340, 354, 366, 370, 373, 381, 389, 390, 393, 395, 397, 401, 411, 420, 427/30, 428, 435, 437/8, 450, 452, 453, 463, 466, 470, 472, 473, 477, 487, 498, 499, 510/11, 510, 511, 518, 523, 524, 527, 528, 540, 542, 548, 551, 552, 554, 558, 563, 570.

CORRECTIONS RECEIVED SINCE OUR LAST ISSUE

Index Description

No.	tion	Name of Organisation	Present Secretary and Address
A74	CD	Seaham D.L.P.	Mr. E. F. PEART, 22, Thornlaw, Thornley, Co. Durham.
G85/88	DB	W. Ham T.C. and Bow D.L.P.	Coun. G. J. SMITH, 110, Pretoria Rd., London, E.13.
G88	BD	Upton D.L.P.	Mr. R. D. REES, 88, Portway, West Ham, London, E.15.
G126	CD	Huntingdon D.L.P.	Mr. J. G. MACLEOD, Manor House, Hemingford Grey, Hunts.
D140	CD	Isle of Thanet D.L.P.	Mr. H. B. CLARE, Victoria House, Station Rd., Birchington, Kent.
B147	DMB	Blackburn D.L.P.	Coun. G. B. EDDIE, 21, Clayton St., Blackburn, Lancs.
B172	BD	Moss Side D.L.P.	Mr. C. H. WHITE, 8, Downing St., Manchester, 1, Lancs.
C211	CD	Loughborough D.L.P.	Mr. W. R. BANNER, Loughborough D.L.P., 6, Church Gate, Loughborough.
E232	SB	Chelsea L.P. and T.C.	Miss B. CURTIS BROWN, 27, Cheyne Walk, London, S.W.3.
E242/43	DB	Bow L.P.	Mr. N. C. WOLFF, 25, Pennard Mansions, Hammer-smith, London, W.6.
E244	SB	Hampstead D.L.P.	Mr. J. C. SHIPHAM, Flat No. 1, 95, Fitzjohn's Avenue, London, N.W.3.
E245	SB	Holborn D.L.P.	Mrs. E. HAINES, 15, Store St., London, W.C.1.
E250	BD	N. Kensington T.C. and L.P.	Mr. J. McLAUCHLAN, 143, Clarendon Rd., London, W.11.
E251	BD	S. Kensington D.L.P.	Mr. H. SOLOMONS, Flat 3, Shaftesbury Garages, Stratford Rd., London, W.8.
E258/9	DB	Bow T.C. and L.P.	Mr. S. T. F. LAND, 46, Marylands Rd., Paddington, London, W.9.

Index Descrip-

No.	tion	Name of Organisation	Present Secretary and Address
283	SB	Ealing L.P. and T.C.	Mr. L. T. WATTERS, 28, Birkbeck Avenue, Greenford, Middlesex.
313	BD	Newcastle Central D.L.P.	Mr. W. JOHNSON, 117, Shields St., Newcastle-on-Tyne, 2.
365	CD	Eye D.L.P.	Mr. H. L. SELF, 41, Victoria Rd., Stowmarket, Suffolk.
456	CD	Barkston Ash D.L.P.	Mr. F. SMITHSON, 94, The Green, Acomb, York.
478	CD	Carmarthen D.L.P.	Ald. W. J. ESMOND, J.P., "Stelvio," Llandovery, Carmarthens.
499	CD	Ogmore D.L.P.	Coun. T. J. JONES, 50, St. Michael's Rd., Maesteg, Bridgend, Glam.
551	BD	Tradeston D.L.P.	Mr. M. LENNON, 12, Heyden St., Glasgow, S.I.
573	SB	Paisley T. and L.C.	Mr. D. R. KEIR, 57, Seedhill Rd., Paisley, Renfrewshire.
576	CD	Roxburgh and Selkirk D.L.P.	Mr. J. SHORTREED, 110, Ramsay Rd., Hawick, Roxburghshire.

LABOUR and the NEXT ELECTION

The "Labour Bulletin," a highly interesting and instructive little sheet published monthly by the "Daily Herald," "for service to the Labour Movement," contained, in the April issue, an illuminating analysis of Labour's opportunities at another General Election.

"Investigator," whose anonymity is lost by a phrase boldly says that:

"After a very careful survey of the situation as it exists in each Division, it is reasonable to assume that the winning of enough seats to give Labour a working majority is quite within the bounds of possibility.

"This conclusion, however, must be qualified. The assumption is only reasonable if the next two or three years are occupied with a vigorous and imaginatively directed propaganda drive on much more spacious lines than ever before attempted. Without that the difficulties may be insuperable. With it, I feel certain that all the difficulties can be overcome.

"It is a significant fact, not widely known, that Labour since 1918 has at various times held 309 of the 615 seats, or just over half.

"To secure an effective majority we must win every seat previously held and at least another thirty.

"My analysis of the seats, taking into account industrial features, varying conditions of organisation, changes in population and other factors, has produced a list of 202 seats not now held,

all of which I believe can be won next time.

"These seats with those now held would give Labour a clear majority of nearly 100.

"Of these 202 seats, 149 have previously been held. The majority against us is less than 5,000 in 119 of them.

"The total majority against us in these selected seats is approximately 932,000. Of these, only 286,000 are in the 119 seats with adverse majorities of less than 5,000.

"The analysis also shows that easily the greatest number of winnable seats are in urban and industrial districts of a not naturally unfavourable type.

"There are 129 Boroughs. These are largely industrial, suburban seats scarcely figuring in the list.

"There are 44 County Divisions which for electoral purposes may properly be described as industrial; 14 County Divisions which are only semi-agricultural; and 15 County Divisions where the majority of electors are connected with agriculture.

"And of these latter 15, six have been won by Labour at some time!

"There are definite signs of Labour revival. The victory of London put an end to the defeatism and disparaging talk which has been far too common lately.

"I say that Labour can win power. My belief does not rest on optimistic speculation, but on a realistic observation of all the facts."

WE REVIEW:

"Durham and the North East Coast." Report of L.P.'s Commission of Enquiry into Distressed Areas. Price One Penny, Labour Publications Department.

Every wit as interesting, thought provoking, and informative as the previous interim report, and the report of West Cumberland referred to in our last issue. It is really surprising how in these reports the position in the Areas covered is concisely stated, and laid before readers from other parts. The detailed story here given simply was not known to comrades and colleagues before the enquiry.

Equally instructive are the proposals of the Commission. Palliatives and Socialist principles attain the greatest common measure in the suggestions made.

"Essentials of Public Speaking." By Fred Longden. Price 4s. 6d. Cornish Brothers, Ltd., 39, New Street, Birmingham.

A preface by Sir Cedric Hardwicke stamps with a hallmark Fred Longden's useful service to his fellows both of the platform and of the floor. These "essentials" are, however, as useful to the general reader as to anybody else, and one is reminded again and again of Holyoake. Indeed, Fred Longden writes as a modern Holyoake and is therefore interesting, instructive and profound.

It is a book one cannot scan through. One must read slowly and again and again—and one gets full value for 4s. 6d.

"Germany Tells the World." Price Sixpence. Union of Democratic Control, 34, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

The U.D.C., once mightily busy in repudiating the war guilt of Germany, is now apparently at great pains in this pamphlet to prove the peace guilt of Herr Hitler. By bell, book and candle the latter is here decried as the greatest danger to Peace that Europe has ever known. The writers appear to have forgotten all about British and French Imperialism, and not to understand

differences in national psychologies or remember the sore temptation and betrayal which after-the-war-Germany received at the hands of the League of Nations. We believe George Lansbury holds a different view of Hitler's desire for Peace than is expressed in this pamphlet and we prefer his first-hand knowledge to that of the authors.

When will some British writer learn that trust of one's "enemy" is essential to Peace, and that the alternative to trust is distrust and war? Assuredly the fires are being stoked—this one at sixpence a time.

"Wrecking, Espionage and Terrorism in the U.S.S.R." Being speeches by M. Stalin. Price Twopence. Anglo-Russian Parliamentary Committee, 67, Buckingham Street, London, W.C.2.

Quite an alarming title and some what disturbing coming from the land of "the great Socialist experiment." After all, Communism speeches must be picturesque, otherwise we suppose they would hardly be worth the price of publication. And we are not disappointed. "Trotskyism" appears to be the bogy or the bee in the bonnet of Communism. It is strange to reflect how Dictatorships all get their bogies. Hitler has his, and Lloyd George, in the days of his dictatorship, won an election against the "Bolsheviks (you and I, dear reader).

Trotskyism, of course, comes in for a slashing attack. It is exhilarating to read Stalin taking one point after another—a dozen of them—saying again and again "it is not necessary to shatter and discard the fifth rotten theory," or "it is necessary to smash and cast off one more rotten theory," and so on and so forth till umpteen "rotten theories are vanquished.

Would that somebody would whisper a little word of love across the boundless leagues of Europe and Asia. "Wrecking, Espionage and Terrorism"—ugh! is it all a horrible dream? And shall we breast the storm and bring the world to Peace? One wonders.

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NEWS, NOTES, NOTIONS

Spennymoor Divisional Labour Party (Agent, Ald. J. M. Cape, J.P.) is one which is proud to publish in printed form the results of its Spring elections. To go through six pages of printed results and of Labour victories makes one's mouth water. The total included five County Council seats (the lot); 19 seats out of 32 on the Crook U.D.C.; 17 seats out of 18 on the Brandon U.D.C.; and six seats out of 12 on the Tow Law U.D.C. Full total, 61 Labour seats to 22 others. Now let everyone ask, "Why can't we do that there here?"

Adverting to the London County Council elections, it is interesting to note that in the annual report of the London District of Labour Agents' Association, the following paragraph appears: It is, of course, written with an intimate knowledge of the London elections:

"While not wishing to engage in public controversy, we feel compelled to repudiate the impudent claims of the Communist Party of the measure of their own responsibility for the victories in the L.C.C. Election, at least in those seats for which our members were responsible for the organisation.

"From enquiry, we have ascertained that almost unanimously our members rejected the proffered assistance of the Communist Party, and that the immense volume of work undertaken was carried through by the ordinary members of the Party. We have failed to discover the Labour Committee Rooms in control of our members which 'were actually headquarters of the united campaign,' or any evidence of the 'large batches of election literature which would have been undelivered except for the members of the Communist Party.'"

A number of Parties must, like the Bedford D.L.P., have been disappointed with the decision of the National E.C. of the Labour Party to postpone publication of the monthly Bulletin, a postponement due, unfortunately, to the poor response received. Bedford, not being content to wait, and having planned a distribution scheme, has decided to go ahead with a distribu-

tion of its own pending the revival of Headquarters' scheme. The Parliamentary candidate (Mr. Norman Mickle) has drawn up a leaflet on Labour's Immediate Programme, which contains a readable summary of the proposals. The first batch has been duplicated, and 5,000 are being distributed in the Divisions. We are grateful to our friend, Mr. W. M. Kempster, J.P., Secretary of the Bedfordshire Federation, for this information.

On another page we reproduce a poll card used recently in the Stourbridge Division. It is commendable in layout, though, of course, not original in conception. We are, however, often asked for such samples.

A batch of other good election literature from Stourbridge reaches us at the same time. We note that emphasis is laid upon a personal message from the candidate, addressed to each elector. The "personal" message is sent out immediately after nominations, and is printed in imitation typewriting type. The literature, including the election address, which is in unusual form, strikes us as being good.

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LECTION of a COUNTY COUNCILLOR or the OLDBURY CENTRAL WARD

Poll
opens
8
a.m.

Polling is on
WEDNESDAY
(this week)
3rd MARCH

Poll
closes
8
p.m.

USE YOUR VOTE
HAVE RESPECT TO THE PAST,
HAVE REGARD TO THE FUTURE

Put your X by the FIRST NAME on
the ballot paper, thus :

Your
Polling Number
is

You
Poll at

**Popes Lane
Council Schools**

You are
respectfully asked
to vote thus :

I BRIGHT, J. W.

X

Important Points to Remember!
**John BRIGHT, in asking for
YOUR Vote, makes his
appeal to reason**

Mere interference is not administration
HE IS A WISE ADMINISTRATOR

He has earned your respect
He also respects you

Remember also **THE BALLOT IS SECRET**
DON'T BE AFRAID

Go "In Quietness and Confidence"
and put your X thus :

I	BRIGHT	X
----------	---------------	----------

Whether you walk or whether you ride
Vote for **BRIGHT** when you get inside

THE BALLOT IS SECRET

SEE OVER.

Representation of the Peoples Act— Register of Electors, 1937

Nationality Questions

The usual circular of instructions to registration officers relating to the procedure in the compilation of this year's register of electors has been issued by the Home Office.

No difference exists between the present instructions and those issued in previous years, though we again draw attention to the continual emphasis placed by the Home Office upon the thoroughness of the house to house enquiry. The Home Office also emphasise that it is desirable that where practical persons out of work should be employed to give any temporary assistance required in the preparation of the register. It is suggested that the Employment Exchanges should be notified and also local branches of Ex-Servicemen's organisations and similar bodies so that the latter may submit names for approval. We suggest that Trades Councils might be similar bodies with power of nomination—certainly Trades Unions.

Accompanying the present circular is a revised statement of the law relating to the nationality of married women. It occurs to us that the publication of this information will be of service to our readers, and it should be set aside for future reference.

A British woman who marries an alien, or whose husband, being a British subject, becomes naturalised in a foreign country, loses British nationality, *except* in the following cases:—

- (1) *United States of America.* If the marriage or naturalisation took place after 22nd September, 1922, she retains her British nationality.
- (2) *France.* A British woman who marries a Frenchman after 17th November, 1933, retains British nationality, *unless* before the marriage she makes a formal declaration that she desires to acquire French nationality. A British woman whose husband is

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- naturalised in France after the 10th August, 1927, retains British nationality.
- (5) *Honduras Republic.* A British woman who marries a Honduranian on or after the 15th April, 1936, retains British nationality.
- (6) *Portugal.* A British woman married to a Portuguese subject outside Portugal remains British until the marriage is registered in Portugal.
- (7) *Russia.* The information contained in the Circular of the 26th April, 1934, has been superseded as a result of correspondence with the Soviet Government. The position now is that a British woman married to a Russian retains British nationality if—
- (1) the marriage (whether to a Soviet citizen or a "White" Russian) took place after 7th November, 1917,
 - or (2) the marriage took place before the 7th November, 1917, without a religious ceremony.
 - or (3) her husband is naturalised in Russia after the 7th November, 1917.
- (8) *Spain.* British women who marry Spaniards after the 9th December, 1931, retain British nationality, in the absence of option for Spanish nationality.
- (9) *Sweden.* A British woman whose husband is naturalised in Sweden may thereby acquire Swedish nationality and lose British nationality. It depends upon the decision of the Swedish Authorities in each individual case.
- (10) *Armenia.* Armenians may be of either Russian or Turkish nationality. In the case of Russian Armenians, the position is as set out in (5) above. In the case of Turkish Armenians, Turkish nationality is lost only by special decree of the Turkish Authorities, so that a British woman who marries a Turkish Armenian is deemed to have retained British nationality only if her husband can produce evidence of the issue of such a decree at a date prior to the marriage.
- (11) A British woman who marries a national of any of the following countries, no matter at what date,

retains British nationality:—

Argentine
Brazil
Chile
Colombia
Ecuador
Guatemala
Morocco
Palestine
Panama
Paraguay
Uruguay

- (10) A British woman whose husband is naturalised, no matter at what date, in any of the following countries, retains British nationality:—

Argentine
Brazil
Chile
Dominican Republic
Guatemala
Paraguay
Uruguay
Venezuela

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THE CLARION RURAL CAMPAIGN

By PETER PAIN

At present a country constituency means a safe Tory seat. The rural worker living in scattered villages remains under the dominance of the Tory gentry. In some places the agricultural labourer dare not vote Labour, even when he is converted, because he fears that in some mysterious way the squire will find out and evict him from his cottage. Where Labour sympathies can be shown openly, distance makes organisation terribly difficult.

Yet we all know that Labour will never win power unless it can carry a substantial number of the county seats. How can it do so? Four years ago the Clarion Rural Campaign set out to answer this problem. It found the rural worker eager to hear about Socialism. Difficulties were swept aside by youthful enthusiasm and in the last three campaigns over 700 meetings have been held, 650 villages and country towns have been canvassed and 2,000 new Labour Party members made.

The Clarion has achieved these astonishing results by adapting propaganda methods to rural conditions. A group of young Socialists camp for a week in a constituency, canvassing the villages in the morning and holding meetings in them in the evening. The work is done in co-operation with the local Labour Movement and the Labour Party Agricultural Campaign. With the help of a loud-speaker van the constituency is covered in a week. So the Socialist message is carried to the cottage door, without regard to the wrath of the squire, which might prevent his villagers attending an ordinary meeting. Literature is distributed, showing how Labour's programme will improve rural conditions, providing good housing, a decent water supply and other necessities. The youth and enthusiasm of the campaigners themselves is of tremendous importance, not only in making fresh converts, but also in putting fresh hope and courage in the few Socialists in the district, who have faced years of monotonous uphill work for the movement.

The Clarion Campaign benefits the campaigners too. It gives a good training in propaganda methods, par-

ticularly speaking. The village green is an excellent school for the would-be orator, and at the end of the week even the shyest campaigners find that they can address a meeting without difficulty. But the campaign is not all work; it is a holiday too. The afternoons are free and so is Saturday. Comrades have time to explore the beauties of the country and to visit the local sights.

Lastly, the Clarion does splendid service in bringing comrades together from all sections of the movement. Young men and women from Trade Unions, Labour Parties, Leagues of Youth and Universities meet and exchange ideas. Sectarian differences are sunk for purposes of campaigning and then thrashed out in good humour round the camp fire.

Can you resist such an attractive holiday? This year the Clarion is touring the Thames Valley and East Anglia. The cost has been reduced to £1 per week. Recruits, roll up! Come for a week anyway, and longer if you can! Write to the secretary, Peter Pain, 22 Kildare Terrace, London, W.2, and find out more about it. It will be the best holiday you have ever had!

[Reprinted from *The Plebs*, official and efficient organ of the N.C.L.C.].

Questions Answered Here

The Editor invites readers to send in queries of general interest on organisational and technical matters. Queries for which a reply is desired the same month, should reach us by 6th of the month.

NOTES ON WARD ORGANISATION

[concluded]

By Coun. W. J. THROUP

The agent will have his opportunity, and he should take full advantage of it.

His speech might very well be as follows:—

President and fellow workers,

I know there are many here who will agree with me when I say that this is the best ward meeting we have had in many a long day. Looking round the room I can see the smiling faces of many stalwarts in the movement, who have been associated with us for many years.

I would like to associate myself with the observations of the president, and give a hearty welcome to the new members who have attended our ward meetings for the first time. We are looking ahead to a happy and useful time together.

As a result of our recent activities, and the ready response of many workers to our appeal and canvass for members, we are hoping to build up a virile and effective organisation in the ward. We are anxious to secure all the help that we can, for if more of our people will bend their energies to the task, it will be a labour of love rather than one endless toil.

May I briefly explain what we are aiming to achieve, and I am hoping that the term "we" will include every member who is here to-night.

The real test of an organisation is its contact with the electors. It is the personal touch that counts. The machine that we are hoping to create is right on the door-step of the elector; its object is to make the elector part of the machine.

As you are aware, we have divided the ward into six geographical areas, and I am glad to note that you readily agreed to the suggested names who are to take charge of the sections in conjunction with the officials of the ward. May I say in passing that we are pursuing this policy throughout the constituency. We shall call monthly meetings of the sections to hear reports, and discuss any suggestions that might be made.

Let us take Section 1 of the ward, and see how the scheme will work. Many illustrations might be given, though time will not permit of an exhaustive statement of the case.

(1) Membership and Collection of Fees.

We have sixty members in Section 1 of this ward, which means that in one home in four there is a member of the party. We shall improve on this in the very near future. The subscriptions are mainly collected monthly, and it may surprise this meeting to know that the secretary of the ward has done all the collecting of dues up to date. We must alter that as quickly as possible. Collectors' books have been prepared, and reliable people will be required to do the work. The work will not be heavy, but it is very important that we secure conscientious collectors, people with tact and discretion, who will do the job thoroughly. The fees will be paid over every month to the treasurer of the ward, who will have a complete list of members in all the sections of the ward.

If members drop out, a note of the reasons given should be made. If members change their address the information should be transferred to the secretary of the ward, who will hand over the information to the proper quarter. In this way we shall keep in close contact with all of our members, and the tone of the party will quickly improve.

(2) Registration.

Think for a moment of the advantage to the movement on such an important matter as registration. Removal books will be provided and those who remove in and out of the sections within the constituency can easily be traced and tabulated. Particulars of electors who remove into the constituency can easily be secured, and their political outlook noted. Only an agent knows the value of such a system during the preparation of the register.

The workers in Section 1 will quickly acquire information as to the political colour of the electors in their area, and a survey of the preliminary lists may find many omissions. Labour voters who have unfurnished lodgings will not be omitted if our sections will keep in close touch with the electors.

(3) Social and Political Activities.

It will be necessary to erect a social

committee out of our sections. I need not enlarge upon the unlimited scope it will have at its disposal. Socials, dances, concerts, field-days, rambles, and not overlooking a night a week for the kiddies. Any activity that will bring our people together, that will improve the tone of the movement, should be encouraged.

The nearer we get to the electors the more inquiries we shall get, and more complaints as well. Invite the elector to bring his complaint to the ward meeting, where the representatives of the ward can deal with it. Treat every enquiry with tact and courtesy, and if you have a difficulty in dealing with it send it along to the agent. If the agent is not sure of his ground, there is the Research Department of the party which will give the information desired.

The educational work of the party must not be neglected. Monthly meetings at least must be held, and reports from our representatives on local authorities given. Lectures of all kinds can be arranged, which will prove of value to the movement, and to those who attend the meetings. The younger men and women might be invited to take the chair at these meetings, and

an open night occasionally might be worth while.

(4) Election Work.

At election times the policy we have outlined is clearly seen to great advantage. The delivery of leaflets, election special, or the election address can quickly be done. I have not time to deal fully with the merits of the single card system, but the canvass cards and covers will be prepared in such a way that our sections will canvass their own areas. I need not dwell upon the advantage the sections will have in canvassing their own areas, for the influence of personal association and friendly relationship with the electors will be of incalculable benefit to the party.

I have briefly outlined our scheme, and I think sufficient has been said to justify the venture.

There is nothing high-faluting or high-brow in the policy I have tried to explain. It is a simple yet effective method of doing the work of the party.

We are aiming high, because we hope to do big things. We can do big things if we but will it, and I hope all friends here to-night will help us in our common task.

Remember: "They who soar high seem small to those who cannot fly."

NOTES ON LITERATURE SELLING

Effective development of literature sales is dependent upon a definite system for ordering and supplying new pamphlets as they are produced.

The purpose of pamphlet selling comes under the two headings of:

(1) Keeping our Party members well informed and interested in Party Policy and decisions.

(2) Propaganda and education among those not yet in the Party ranks.

At any whist drive or social function, have a small display of pamphlets near the door or refreshment table.

At any members' meetings, give the Chairman a copy of a new pamphlet, and ask him to mention it, and to say that it is on sale. The Chairman of any members' meeting, committee meeting, or public gathering can be your most important helper. Just have a few words with him BEFORE the meeting starts. To make certain, have it written down for him or put on the agenda.

Many Party members never attend

meetings, but are still interested. Why not get a group of comrades round you, a list of Party members in street order, and make a call on the members at their homes? We have had some surprising results where this has been tried with the new pamphlet, "Labour's Immediate Programme." Every member ought to have the opportunity of studying this very important new document.

Experience proves that the best time to sell literature is WHILE THE AUDIENCE IS WAITING FOR THE MEETING TO START.

DOOR-TO-DOOR SALES have been tried out most successfully in many places. Remember that even hard-boiled Tories will often buy a pamphlet if only to find something in it to use against us. Why not try this out, with a street where you know we have a number of supporters?

ALL OF US engaged in this vital task must remember that we are NOT just selling pamphlets. WE ARE SELLING SOCIALISM.

(From a L.P. circular)